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Reviews

CRYPTOZOÖN. REPLY TO THE REVIEW OF C. W. W.

Before the genus Cryptozoön is relegated to the indiscriminate heap of concretions, as proposed by the reviewer C. W. W. in the *Journal of Geology* (Jan.–Feb., 1908, p. 85), facts like the following ought to be considered:

This form—Cryptozoön or Concretion?—is found like concretions in wide apart localities, but unlike concretions it occurs only in connection with a certain geological formation, the Beekmantown, and in this formation it is restricted to a narrow horizon, only two of the five divisions, so far as observed, containing it.

The peculiar character of its concentric bands in the spherical or spheroidal masses so marked it that for a long time it passed as a Stromatopora, and it was not until after Dr. Roeminger's careful discrimination of the genus, that it was distinguished from Stromatopora.

The minute structure is so like that of the undoubted fossil Stromatocerima, that in some cases when sections of each are placed side by side it is difficult to distinguish them.

Passing by other indications of the organic origin of the form, it should be added that the conclusions of Mather, Hall, and Dawson should have some consideration. Dawson's views were based on the study of many sections of what he came to regard as good species of Hall's genus Cryptozoön. Such facts and considerations forbid the dropping of the genus Cryptozoön.

In the matter of ova an interrogation point should have followed the figure, as it was designed as a suggestion, rather than a demonstration. Thus one making slices of Stromatocerium finds in the microscopic field distinct lacunae. In some of these exist minute spherical masses, apparently more compact than pilae. Now it may never be possible to prove that these little spheres actually are; that they may be ova, however, is not an improbable suggestion.

H. M. S.